

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A creeper comprising opposed side rails; a pad supported between said  
2 side rails; and a plurality of caster assemblies attached to and supporting  
3 said side rails; each of said plurality of caster assemblies including a  
4 wheel having a wheel body with a radial surface wherein the width of the  
5 contact between said radial surface and a work surface upon which the  
6 creeper is placed is from about 50 to about 75 percent of the maximum  
7 width of said wheel body.
- 1 2. A creeper according to claim 1 wherein each said wheel of said plurality  
2 of caster assemblies further comprises a hub having including an axial  
3 bore, an inner rim proximate said axial bore, and an outer rim distanced  
4 from said inner rim by radial supports.
- 1 3. A creeper according to claim 2 wherein said axial bore is defined by a  
2 bearing.
- 1 4. A creeper according to claim 3 wherein said bearing is made of a material  
2 selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, acetal resin,  
3 polyolefin, polypropylene and nylon.
- 1 5. A creeper according to claim 1 wherein said wheel body is formed from  
2 material selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, thermoplastic  
3 rubber, polyolefin, polypropylene and monprene.
- 1 6. A creeper according to claim 5 wherein said wheel body has a hardness  
2 of from about 65 to about 85 on the Shore durometer hardness type D  
3 scale.
- 1 7. A creeper comprising opposed side rails; a pad supported between said  
2 side rails; and a plurality of caster assemblies attached to and supporting  
3 said side rails; each of said plurality of caster assemblies including a

- 4 wheel comprising a wheel body extending, in hemispherical or semi-  
5 elliptical cross section, from a hub.
- 1 8. A creeper according to claim 7, wherein said hub includes an axial bore,  
2 an inner rim proximate said axial bore, and an outer rim distanced from  
3 said inner rim by radial supports.
- 1 9. A creeper according to claim 8 wherein said axial bore is defined by a  
2 bearing.
- 1 10. A creeper according to claim 9 wherein said bearing is made of a material  
2 selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, acetal resin,  
3 polyolefin, polypropylene and nylon.
- 1 11. A creeper according to claim 7 wherein said wheel body is formed from  
2 material selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, thermoplastic  
3 rubber, polyolefin, polypropylene and monoprene.
- 1 12. A creeper according to claim 11 wherein said wheel body has a hardness  
2 of from about 65 to about 85 on the Shore durometer hardness type D  
3 scale.
- 1 13. A creeper according to claim 7 wherein the width of the surface contact  
2 between said radial surface and a work surface upon which the creeper is  
3 placed is from about 50 to about 75 percent of the maximum width of said  
4 wheel body.
- 1 14. A creeper according to claim 7 wherein said side rails have a top and  
2 bottom surface, said top surface tapering toward said bottom surface to  
3 define a decreased cross section of said side rails, the decreased cross  
4 section of said side rails being positioned adjacent said pad.

- 1 15. A creeper according to claim 7 wherein each of said plurality of caster  
2 assemblies includes a top bearing bracket having a top race, said top  
3 bearing bracket being attached to one of said side rails such that said top  
4 race of said top bearing bracket lies wholly within the vertical profile of  
5 said side rail.
- 1 16. A creeper according to claim 7 wherein said plurality of caster assemblies  
2 are attached to said side rails without creating a protrusion on said top  
3 surface of said side rails.
- 1 17. A creeper according to claim 16 wherein said caster assemblies each  
2 include a top bearing bracket having a top race, and a bottom bearing  
3 bracket having a bottom race; a wheel assembly connected to said caster  
4 assembly between said top and bottom bearing brackets; top rolling  
5 elements retained within said top race between said top bearing bracket  
6 and a portion of said wheel assembly; and bottom rolling elements  
7 retained within said bottom race between said bottom bearing bracket and  
8 a portion of said wheel assembly.
- 1 18. A creeper according to claim 17 wherein each of said caster assemblies  
2 further include a kingpin, said bottom bearing bracket and said wheel  
3 assembly being held in operative position by said kingpin.
- 1 19. A creeper according to claim 18 wherein said top bearing bracket is  
2 secured to said bottom surface of said side rails by rivet nuts.